



# The Cocopah Indian Tribe

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March 11, 2011

DOI, Office of the Secretary  
Attention: Ms. Mary Milam  
1849 C. St. NW  
MS 4141-MIB  
Washington, DC 20240

### **Re: The Cocopah Indian Tribe response to Draft Tribal Consultation Policy**

The Cocopah Tribe is pleased that President Obama, through Executive Order 13175, has renewed proper consideration for Tribal Governments involvement in Federal policies and regulations that have impact in Indian Country.

The Department of the Interior (DOI) Draft Tribal Consultation Policy reflects the spirit of government- to – government relations as understood by my Tribe. The Cocopah Tribe is hopeful that the actual practices of the United States will reflect the spirit expressed in the Draft Consultation Policy.

In the fashion of cooperation and desire to work toward the same goals of mutual respect, Cocopah requests consideration of the proposed modifications.

Article III. Definitions: A-G area acceptable as written. At Section H, Cocopah requests that the language “when appropriate” be struck and replaced with “will reply”.

Article IV Training : As presented is generally acceptable. Cocopah requests that the training to improve sensitivity and understanding of traditional American culture and government include a requirement that the Federal Government recognize that each Tribe is distinct with unique culture, traditions and values such that training provided must include knowledge and skills obtained directly from the Tribal Government(s) that will be impacted by federal actions.

Article VIII, Section D (3) Implementation of Final Federal Action Stage is generally acceptable. The Cocopah Tribe request that "exigent circumstances" be described. It is expected that exigency would be an unanticipated event and not one created by oversight or previous practices where informing the Tribe of Federal actions at a public forum was reported as consultation.

Article X Disclaimer. While the Cocopah Tribe can appreciate the necessity of protecting the governments against meritless claims, the proposed disclaimer appear to dilute the entire stated purposes for the policy. Cocopah would like to see the recognition of the rights, benefits and respect protected with the force of the memorandum from President Obama providing that the E.O. 13175 was the threshold level to foster meaningful government to government relations.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sherry Cordova", written in a cursive style.

Sherry Cordova, Chairwoman  
Cocopah Tribal Council